

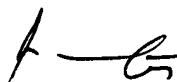
REMARKS

Claims 1 to 4, 7 to 10, 13 to 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khouty et al. (U.S. 6,121,910) in view of Muhammad et al. (U.S. 2003/0080888). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Muhammad et al. is not available as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) since this reference is assigned to the same assignee as is the subject application. Note 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and the fact that applicant has established by the attached Declaration that the application was ready for patenting under the provisions as set forth in Pfaff v. Wells Electronics, 525 U.S. 55, 119 S. Ct. 304, 142 L. Ed. 2d 261, 48 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1641 prior to the date of publication of Muhammad et al. and clearly less than one year prior to the publication date of Muhammad et al.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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